

The James A. Campfield House  
Florham Park  
Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-522

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14-FLORP  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The James A. Campfield House  
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Owner: (and occupant) Robert R. Scorso

Date of Erection: About 1785-1787

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Dr. Abraham Halsey (1764-1822)

Present Condition: Good, alterations confined to  
kitchen wing

Number of Stories: Two and one-half and one and one-  
half with part cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber frame with clapboard  
siding

Interior walls - lath and plaster on studding

Chimneys - brick, central in main unit;  
inside gable end of minor unit

Roof - gable, modern raking cornice of gable  
ends replaces probable original verge  
board. Wood shingle roofing is modern  
also

Historical Data:

Recompence Halsey, to whom the ownership of  
the land on which stands this house has been traced  
in the public records, was born 19 August 1700 in  
Southampton, Long Island, moved to Scotch Plains,  
Essex County, New Jersey about 1730, and later to the  
place which became the village of Columbia, in Hanover  
Township, Morris County, and is now within the lines  
of the modern borough of Florham Park. His house

was still standing in 1877, being then occupied by one James Richards.(a)

By his will dated 23 March 1770 and proved 3 May 1777, this Recompence Halsey of Hanover Township devised to his wife Hannah the use of his plantation, to his grandson Abraham Halsey 46 acres of the plantation, describing them as bounded by the lines of the widow Ward, Dsniel Richards and John Campfield, requiring said Abraham to transfer to his brother Isaac Halsey, when of age, the place that was their father Elihu Halsey's and to pay 10 pounds to his brother Jacob, their mother Elizabeth to receive the rents. To his son Ananias he devised part of his plantation; made bequests of money to grandson Moses Stiles, and daughters Ruth, Hannah and Elizabeth; ordered headstones erected for himself, his wife and son Elihu; and appointed executors John Campfield and Ellis Cook, Jr.(b)

The grandson Abraham Halsey was born 19 February 1764 in Hanover Township, eldest of the three sons of Elihu and Elizabeth (Ely) Halsey. His father died 29 November 1770, and the widow married Frederick Jones and died 12 June 1777 in her 33rd year. Abraham Halsey at the age of six inherited a small farm which his father had bought of John Youngs, but this, by the will of his grandfather as abovesaid, he was to surrender to his brother Isaac when the latter came of age (in 1785?), and receive a 46 acre tract in exchange. He served in the militia during the Revolution and after that war he studied medicine. Disposing of his patrimony in Hanover, Dr. Halsey removed to Dutchess County, New York, by 1792 where he died 7 May 1822 and was buried in the Reformed Dutch Churchyard at Hopewell.(a)

(a) J. L. and E. D. Halsey, Thomas Halsey and his American Descendants, publ. Morristown, N.J., 1895, pp. 47, 66, and 107. See also map of Columbia, Chatham Twp., publ. in Atlas of Morris Co. 1868, for location of that house and of the one here surveyed marked D. Cory.

(b) Abstracts of Wills, publ. in N.J. Archives, XXXIV, 220.

From the fact that he was but six years old when the 46 acre portion of his grandfather's farm was devised to him by the latter's will of 1770, as above stated, this Dr. Halsey who is of record as owner in 1787 of the house thereon here considered, would not have built a house before he came of age in 1785, or was married at some date before 1792 when his first child was born.

By a deed of 6 December 1787, he, as Abraham Halsey of Hanover Twp., Morris County, N.J., conveyed to Daniel Cory of same place, for 110 pounds current money of New Jersey (at the rate of 7 shillings 6 pence per ounce) a tract of 16 acres there, evidently part of the 46 acres above mentioned\*, describing it as being in the Town of Chatham late Hanover, and lying on the southeast side of the "main road leading to Bottle Hill (Madison) to the Rev. Jacob Green's Meeting House" (Presbyterian Church at Hanover) and bounded southeast by lands of Samuel Camp field, southwest by those of David Richards decd., and northeast by "the driftway that leads to the Camp-fields", but reciting no title.

This grantee, Daniel Cory of Hanover Twp., with his wife Hannah, conveyed the same 16 acres with three other tracts comprising some 32 acres

\*No record of conveyance of land to Abraham Halsey, other than by the will of his grandfather as stated, is found in Morris County archives. Hence it is assumed that the 16 acres and house here surveyed were part of the 46 acre devise to him, no other record of disposition of the latter having been found in these archives. It is possible that this 16 acre tract was part of a 50 acre Campfield estate which is said to have extended to Passaic River, as believed by Miss Scorso, present occupant of the house here surveyed.

additional, to their son-in-law James A. Campfield(c) by deed of 31 May 1825, and he, being of New York City, then left the same property in possession of Cory and his wife for lifetime by his lease dated 1st June following.

By 1st November 1842, Daniel Cory Campfield of Chatham Twp., a son of the above, had come into possession of the same farm, on which date he gave a lease thereof to his parents James A. Campfield and wife Rachel and the survivor of them, for the rent of five bushels of winter rye annually if demanded. On 16 December 1848, the lessor abovenamed and his wife, being of New York City, conveyed the property by deed to the lessee who was still of Chatham Twp., Morris County, for \$900, reciting the title from Abraham Halsey as above outlined.

This James A. Campfield (c) devised the property to his daughters Sarah C. Scorso and Amelia Campfield, the former of whom gave her deed of 2 February 1906 conveying her share of the original 16 acre lot to Charles F. Scorso of Florham Park, (excepting three acres already sold by her to Daniel Cory), and the said Mr. Scorso passed the same to Daniel S. Voorhees of Morristown by deed of 29 June 1910. The last named passed it back to

(c) James Andress Camp field, farmer, b. 19 Oct. 1790, d. 22 Dec. 1857 at Columbia (Afton) in Chatham Twp., Morris Co., N.J., son of Jonathan and Mary (Shaw) Campfield of Newark and of Hanover Twp., Morris Co. He mar. 9 Nov. 1813 at Hanover, Rachel Cory and had issue, viz. - Harriet R., Mary A., Jane E., Daniel Cory, Hannah C., and Sarah C., of whom Daniel Cory Camp field, b. 8 Oct. 1820, mar. 7 Dec. 1842 Margaret Fairchild. (Fredk. A. Campfield, A History of Thomas Canfield and of Matthew Campfield, publ. 1897, p. 68)

Charles F. Scorso on 14 December following, from whom his half interest in it went to Robert R. Scorso by deed of same date, and he is the owner at the time of our survey of the house in 1939. We are informed verbally that an older house "on the front lawn" of this property until demolished about 1900, was used as a broom factory, and that the foundations were visible a few years ago.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Land and Probate records of Morris County by Cornelius McPhillips, and reviewed by James P. Richards, Jr., H.A.B.S. title abstractor, May, 1940

*Lewis D. Cook*  
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Supervising Historian

Approved:

*Seymour Williams*  
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SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

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